

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 -10. Cancelled

11. (Currently amended) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee, and said method comprising including the following steps of:

reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;

sending the read license parameters to the licensor;

~~restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the licensor;~~

receiving returning the a restored authorization code ~~to~~ at the computer of the licensee;

and

storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the authorization code is stored in a device-specific format in the data-processing device.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising including the steps of:

receiving the license parameters at the licensor;

evaluating the license parameters; and

deciding whether the requested authorization code should be restored and returned to the licensee.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising including the steps of:

- sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;
- evaluating the time information by the licensor; and
- generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that several authorization codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the data-processing device.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that remote data connections are established to all licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising including the steps of:

- establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer;
- sending the security file to the management computer; and
- establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising including the step of:

- establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and the computer of the licensor.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said method further comprising includes the steps of:

- reading the serial number from the security file;
- sending the serial number to a management computer; and
- storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

21. (Previously presented) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee, and said method including the following steps of:

- reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;
- sending the read license parameters to the licensor;
- restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the licensor;
- returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee;
- storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee in a device-specific format in the data-processing device;
- receiving the license parameters at the licensor;
- evaluating the license parameters; and
- deciding whether the requested authorization code should be restored and returned to the licensee.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, further including the steps of:

- sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;
- evaluating the time information by the licensor; and
- generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that several authorization codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the data-processing device.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that remote data connections are established to all licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, further including the steps of:

- establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer;

- sending the security file to the management computer; and

- establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, including the step of: establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and the computer of the licensor.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said method includes the steps of:

- reading the serial number from the security file;

- sending the serial number to a management computer; and

- storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee and includes an unmodifiable serial number of the data processing device, and said method including the following steps of:

- reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;

- sending the read license parameters to the licensor;

- restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the licensor;

- returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee;

storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee;

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a management computer;

sending the security file to the management computer;

establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer;

reading the serial number from the security file;

sending the serial number to the management computer; and

storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 29, further including the steps of:

sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;

evaluating the time information by the licensor; and

generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

31. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the security file on the licensee's computer does not include the authorization code.

32. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the authorization code is storable only on the access-protected data processing device.

33. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the security file does not store the authorization code.

34. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor to an access-protected data-processing device that is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, the method comprising:

reading of license parameters belonging to the licensor from a file associated with the authorization code containing the parameters for the license with which the authorization code is associated, the security file being stored on the computer of the licensee but not containing the authorization code;

sending the read license parameters to a computer of licensor;

receiving with the licensee's computer the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee; and

storing the restored authorization code in the access protected data-processing device connected to the computer of the licensee.

35. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, characterized in that the authorization code is stored in a device-specific format in the data-processing device.

36. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, characterized in that the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

37. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, further including the steps of sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor.

38. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein a plurality of codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the data-processing device.

39. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 38, characterized in that remote data connections are established to all licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

40. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, further including the steps of: establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer; and

sending the security file to the management computer, the management computer establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

41. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, where in the process further comprises:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a computer of the licensor.

42. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said process further comprises:

- reading the serial number from the security file; and
- sending the serial number to a management computer.